LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A purified T-cell receptor beta-like protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. (Previously presented) A variant of T-cell receptor beta-like protein having at least 90% amino acid identity to SEQ ID NO:1 and which retains IL-2 inducing activity.

Claims 3-12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a purified T-cell receptor beta-like protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in conjunction with a pharmaceutical carrier.

Claims 14-23 (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A method for using a protein to screen a plurality of molecules or compounds to identify at least one ligand, the method comprising:

a) combining the protein of claim 1 with the molecules or compounds under conditions to allow specific binding; and

b) detecting specific binding, thereby identifying a ligand which specifically binds the protein.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the molecules or compounds are selected from DNA molecules, RNA molecules, peptide nucleic acids, peptides, proteins, mimetics, agonists, antagonists, antibodies, immunoglobulins, inhibitors, and drugs.

26. (Previously presented) A method of using a protein to prepare and purify antibodies comprising:

a) immunizing a animal with the protein of claim 1 under conditions to elicit an antibody response;

b) isolating animal antibodies;

c) attaching the protein to a substrate;

d) contacting the substrate with isolated antibodies under conditions to allow specific binding to the protein;

e) dissociating the antibodies from the protein, thereby obtaining purified antibodies.

27. (New) A purified T-cell receptor beta-like protein selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,

c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 wherein the biological activity is IL2 inducing activity, and

d) an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.